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Subpart A—Introduction

§ 651.1 Purpose.

This regulation sets forth policy, responsibilities, and procedures for integrating environmental considerations into Army planning and decision-making. It establishes a criteria for determining what Army actions are categorically excluded from requirements to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and lists applicable categorical exclusions (CX) in appendix A.

§ 651.2 References.

Required and related publications and referenced forms are listed in appendix B.

§ 651.3 Explanation of abbreviations and terms.

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the Glossary.

§ 651.4 Responsibilities.

(a) The Secretary of the Army (SA) has designated the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Logistics (ISA (I&L))) to serve as the Army's responsible official for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) matters.

(b) The Chief of Engineers (COE) has the responsibility for coordinating and monitoring NEPA activities within the Army. Through the Assistant Chief of Engineers (DAEN-ZC), the Army Environmental Office is the Army Staff (ARSTAF) point of contact (POC) for environmental matters.

(c) The Assistant Chief of Engineers (ACE) will—

(1) Provide assistance to Army agencies in completing environmental analysis and documentation through identifying and quantifying environmental impacts and selecting impact mitigation techniques.

(2) In cases of multiple Army agency involvement, designate a single agency or lead office with responsibility for preparing and processing environmental documentation; assign Army lead agency responsibility in cases of non-Army agency involvement.

(3) Review and comment on Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) submitted by Army, other Department of Defense (DOD) components, and other Federal agencies.

(4) Monitor proposed Army policy and program documents that have environmental implications to determine compliance with NEPA requirements and to ensure integration of environmental considerations into the decisionmaking process.

(5) Maintain liaison with the Office of Management and Budget, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other Federal, State, and local agencies on environmental policies that may affect the Army. This liaison assists in identifying and evaluating applicable regulatory policies for proposed actions.

(6) Maintain a current record from which access to EISs may be obtained from the proponent. Also, maintain a record of actions of national concern that resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

(7) Establish procedures for retention of EISs prepared by the Department of the Army (DA).

(8) Require the revision or preparation of environmental documents, as appropriate, to ensure adequate consideration of environmental impacts when a proponent has failed to do so.

(9) Comment on EISs within those areas of assigned staff responsibility and technical capability.

(10) Resolve issues in determining if a public hearing or public scoping meeting is appropriate for the proposed action and assign the responsibility to an appropriate office.

(d) Heads of Headquarters, Department of Army (HQDA) agencies will—

(1) Apply policies and procedures herein to programs and actions within their staff responsibility except for State funded operations of the Army National Guard (ARNG).

(2) Task the appropriate component with preparation of environmental assessments (EAs) and/or EISs. Proponents (defined in the Glossary) may conduct their preparation in-house, through contract, or pursue indirect